

for initiative petitions. We allow for them. Of those that do, under current law, look at the time lines for how long they allow for the distribution and the signing of petitions, and you'll see under current law in Nebraska they can be circulated for essentially about 24 months. If you look at that compared to the other states who allow for initiative petitions, you'll see that that is tied for the very longest period of time, I think. Now what would happen under a bill like 12...1243 if you shortened it by five months, that is by requiring it filed nine months before the election instead of four? Well, in that case then, Nebraska, in Nebraska you'd have 19 months to circulate your petition. How then does that compare to all others? Well, you see we'd be one of the five or six states that are most liberal in allowing initiative petitions and in allowing them to be circulated for an extremely long period of time even with this change. So to me there is no downside to this, and there's a very positive upside in allowing us to operate with full information as to what is going on in the state with respect to petition drives at any particular point in time. So that's all I wanted to bring to your attention. I hope I can persuade the committee next year to bring it out, and I hope this gives you a little preview of what it's all about. I just think it makes such good sense that we ought not to be delay...delaying doing it. With that, I promised the Speaker I'd take no more than 15 minutes, but I don't want to withdraw the motion yet in case there is somebody else that wishes to comment on it, and I'll push my light and withdraw it here momentarily, and perhaps if there is nobody who wishes to comment, I'll just go ahead and withdraw it, but I wanted to afford others the opportunity. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. There are...Senator Beutler, yours is the only light on. Would you care to speak to this motion?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, I've said my piece. I withdraw the motion.

SPEAKER WITHEM: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, any items for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do, a reminder, the Revenue Committee will meet in Executive Session at noon in Room 1520; Revenue Committee in Room 1520 at noon. I have amendments by Senator